

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-4 have been amended.
No new matter has been added.

The specification has been objected to for lacking section headings. Applicants respectfully submit that 37 CFR §1.77(b) discloses a *suggested* format for the arrangement of the disclosure. Applicants respectfully submit that the present disclosure follows the suggested format where applicable. With regard to 37 CFR §1.77(c), which was not cited in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that section headings are suggested but not required, as 37 CFR §1.77(c) clearly states the sections defined in paragraphs (b) (1) through (b) (11) "should" be preceded by a section heading. Applicants respectfully decline at this time to amend the disclosure to include same.

The examiner has objected to the drawings in that there are no verbal labels shown in Figure 1 and the labels shown in Figures 2 and 3 are not in the English language.

Applicant thanks the examiner for his observation and has provided, in Appendix A, replacement sheets containing annotated and marked-up copies of Figures 1, 2 and 3. Figure 1 has been amended to contain verbal labels for the elements shown and Figures 2 and 3 have been amended to contain labels in the English language. Appendix B contains copies of the originally filed drawings which are to be replaced.

Having made the corrections indicated, applicant submits that the reason for the examiner's objection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amended drawings and withdrawal of the objection.

The examiner has objected to the ABSTRACT because there is a reference to "Fig.1."

Applicant thanks the examiner for his observation and has made the appropriate correction. Applicant submits that the reason for the examiner's objection has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Strong (USP No. 5,384,892).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the examiner's rejection of the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the instant application, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, applicant has amended claims 1 and 4 to state, "a plurality of different speech models." Support for the amendment made may be found on page 7, lines 20-22 of the instant application, which state, "[t]his is realized in that an evaluation is made by means of a plurality of speech models, which are referred to as LM-0 to LM-K in Fig. 1." No new matter has been added.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A speech dialogue system (1) comprising:
a speech understanding unit (4) in which, for identifying a meaningful word sub-sequence from a recognition result produced by a speech recognition unit (3) which result was determined for a word sequence fed to the speech dialogue system (1), the word sub-sequence is evaluated by means of a plurality of different speech models (8).

Strong discloses a system and method for speech recognition which determines acoustic features, recognizes words based on a language model and the selection of an appropriate response based on the words recognized. Strong discloses that a vocabulary used is generated by the language model generator from a larger vocabulary so that the "[r]ecognizer will ... search only in the portion of the database (vocabulary) according the language model information." (see col. 4, lines 65-68). Strong further discloses that the language model generator "determines based on the current operating conditions ... sequences of words which are expected to be received by recognizer 220 in order to limit the scope of the vocabulary search." (see col. 5, lines 10-15). This dynamic operation of the language model generating a limited vocabulary is shown in Fig. 3, wherein the language model is generated between time t_1 and t_2 for buffered features received from the feature extraction process. (see col. 6, lines 48-53).

Hence, Strong discusses using a single, reduced vocabulary, speech model

based on context to determine word sequences and these models are generated from a larger vocabulary based on the features input. Strong fails to disclose "words sub-sequence evaluated by means of a plurality of different speech models," as is recited in the claim. It is well recognized that to constitute a rejection pursuant to 35 USC §102, i.e., anticipation, all material elements recited in a claim must be found in one unit of prior art.

Hence, Strong cannot be said to anticipate the invention recited in independent claim 1 because Strong fails to disclose all the elements claimed. Thus, having shown that Strong fails to disclose a material element claimed, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claims 2 and 3, these claims ultimately depend from independent claim 1, which has been shown to be allowable over the cited reference. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

With regard to claim 4, this claim has been amended to recite:

4. A method of extracting a significant word sub-sequence from a recognition result produced by a speech recognition unit (3) of a speech dialogue system (1), in which the word sub-sequence is evaluated with a plurality of different speech models (8) in a speech understanding unit (4) of ~~the~~ a speech dialogue system (1).

As discussed with regard to claim 1, Strong fails to disclose "words sub-sequence is evaluated with a plurality of different speech models," as is recited in the claim. Accordingly, Strong cannot be said to anticipate the invention recited in independent claim 4 because Strong fails to disclose all the elements claimed.

Having shown that Strong fails to disclose a material element claimed, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Amendment
Serial No. 09/944,300


Docket No. DE000133

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited reference. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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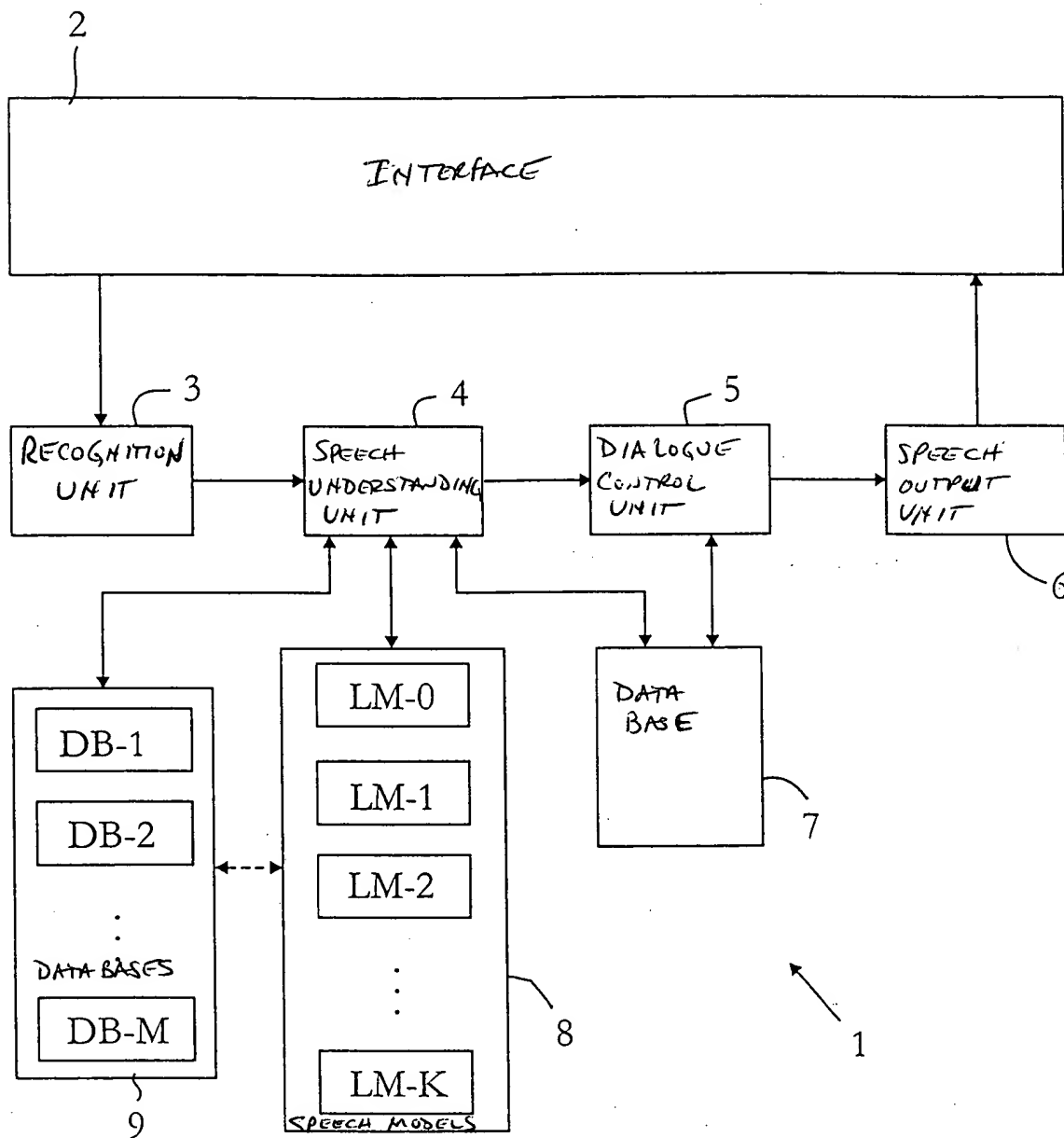


FIG. 1

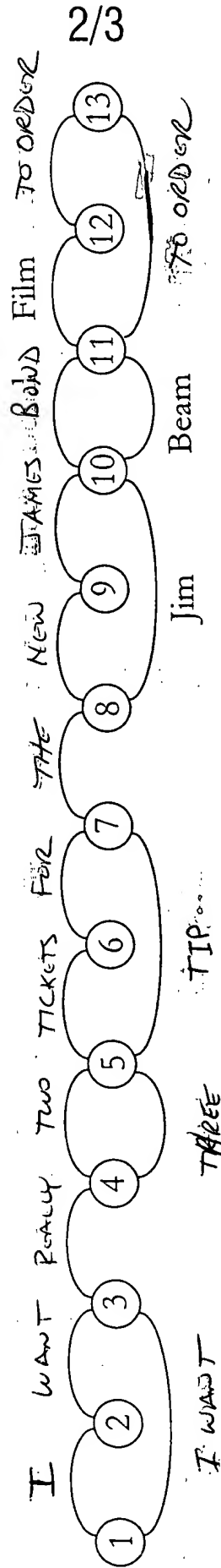


FIG.2

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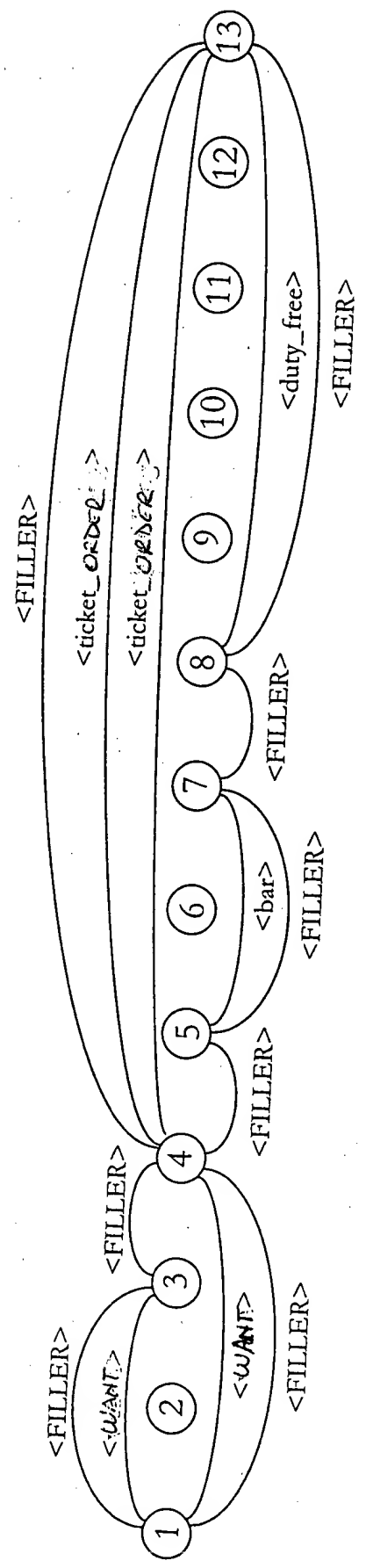


FIG.3